

EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Monday, July 2, 2012

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

Power outages drag on in DC region; officials fuming at utility companies

WASHINGTON POST With much of Montgomery County still without power Monday morning, and 911 problems adding to the chaos in across Northern Virginia on Sunday, local officials vowed to press utilities to restore service more quickly. "I will not accept the timetable of July the 6th, said Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D), shortly after Pepco announced some homes would not have their power restored until Friday or even later. "Having our citizens go seven days without utilities in my opinion is not the kind of service we should expect." With recovery from Friday night's storm stretching into the week ahead, school officials in the District, Montgomery and Prince George's counties announced that the schools would be closed Monday for summer sessions and other events. And Maryland declared liberal leave for all non-essential state employees. But all federal agencies are set to open Monday, though officials said workers could take unscheduled leave or telework. The District government will be open on Monday, officials said. Dozens of city traffic signals remain without power. But Paul Quander, the District's deputy mayor for public safety and justice, said traffic control officers will be in place at anticipated trouble spots for the Monday morning commute. As of 5:30 a.m., about 492,000 Washington-area businesses and households remained out of service, according to data furnished on utility Web sites, down from a high of 1.5 million without power in the hours after the storm.

Protecting Chesapeake Bay from pollution a concerted, constant effort

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES The 15-page report, produced by the Choose Clean Water Coalition, details ways for local elected officials and planners to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment throughout inland waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. "Pollution control is local," said Jennifer Bevan-Dangel of the Maryland Choose Clean Water Coalition. "Local leaders must be engaged in this process, for they play a crucial role in achieving pollution-reduction goals. Local planks contain key strategies for who does what and when." Watershed Implementation Plans are just one of the ways county and local governments are working to meet goals for water quality established by the Maryland and federal governments. Throughout Wicomico County, a coordinated effort has been playing out between the county government and the city of Salisbury to eliminate pollution in local waterways and put them on a diet. "It's a pollution diet for our waterways," said Kieth Hall, planner for Salisbury-Wicomico County Planning, Zoning and Community Development and the team leader for the Watershed Implementation Plan team. "Right now all the counties and municipalities are all collectively working in this watershed implementation planning team." Hall said there are many "exciting" initiatives to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment in Delmarva's waterways. Among the more prominent

solutions are drain covers along the Wicomico River to reduce floating pollution, a voluntary tree-planting program, increasing funding to upgrade septic systems and improving wastewater treatment plants. Jack Lenox, director of Planning and Zoning for Wicomico County and Salisbury, said coordination between not only municipal and county governments but also state governments is key to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Deal will keep Sunoco refinery operating

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Sunoco Inc.'s troubled Philadelphia refinery, a major source of jobs and fuel that was threatened with closure at the end of this month, is getting a new lease on life as an "energy hub." The Carlyle Group, a Washington, D.C., private equity manager, announced plans on Monday to run the refinery as a joint venture with Sunoco called Philadelphia Energy Solutions. The venture will save 850 jobs at the refinery, the largest fuel-production plant in the Northeast, and may employ hundreds more if it carries through with plans to expand production. Carlyle officials say they are "reimagining" the business to exploit new, cheaper domestic sources of crude oil to replace expensive imported petroleum, a major reason the refinery was uncompetitive. Sunoco in September announced plans to exit refining and sell or shut down the plant this summer, saying it was losing a million dollars a day on fuel production. Carlyle, which will have a majority interest in the venture and operate the refinery, also plans to dramatically increase the use of low-priced natural gas from Pennsylvania's booming Marcellus Shale region to reduce refining costs and emissions. "This joint venture will keep one of the region's most important economic engines up and running," Carlyle Managing Director Rodney Cohen said. "The refinery will be a reliable and critical supplier of fuels to the regional market through its new business structure and improved crude oil sourcing." The closure of the refinery would have had enormous economic reverberations. The federal Energy Department had warned that the refinery's shutdown could lead to spot shortages of fuels and price spikes. The state estimates that the plant, which hires a constant stream of skilled contractors for maintenance projects, supports 10,000 jobs indirectly.

Oil and gas drilling permits on hold for southeastern Pa.

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE HARRISBURG -- A last-minute regulatory exemption for a little-known geologic basin had lawmakers scratching their heads and drilling opponents decrying what they perceived as unequal treatment during Saturday's flurry of action in the state Capitol. A provision added to a budget measure on Friday -- and approved Saturday evening -- would temporarily prevent oil and gas drilling permits from being issued for the South Newark Basin, which stretches from New Jersey into Bucks and Montgomery counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. It is scheduled to expire in 2018. Lawmakers from Western Pennsylvania who had opposed the shale-drilling law approved in February as offering too few protections, condemned it as a special carve-out for southeastern residents. "Where was our study? Where was our six years?" asked Democratic Rep. Jesse White, who represents a portion of Washington County that hosts a significant amount of Marcellus Shale drilling. "What makes Bucks and Montgomery [counties] so special?" The basin has garnered attention due to a recent U.S. Geological Survey estimating that it could contain a significant reserve of natural gas within its various layers. While drilling has not yet occurred in Bucks County, Arbor Operating LLC has been issued four conventional drilling permits since 2007 and another request from Butler-based Turm Oil is under review by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Drilling cannot begin there until the Delaware River Basin Commission approves regulations for gas extraction, lifting an effective moratorium on a portion of Eastern Pennsylvania. Still, residents concerned about potential drilling activity have pressured Republican lawmakers who supported the new drilling law approved in February, such as Sen. Chuck McIlhinney, to reverse the zoning restrictions for their area.

Western Pa. polluter's sentence sparks dispute

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attorney general's office of trying to "bully" the sentencing judge into imposing a harsher penalty. Greene County Common Pleas Judge Farley Toothman this month sentenced Robert Allan Shipman, owner of Allan's Waste Water Service, to seven years of probation and 1,750 hours of community service, in addition to \$257,316 in restitution, a \$100,000 fine and a \$25,000 charitable contribution to be paid to the attorney general's office. The state prosecutor's office was angered by the probation sentence and said in a motion for reconsideration this week that Mr. Shipman should go to jail to send a message to others who would deliberately pollute the state. Mr. Shipman's lawyer, Christopher Blackwell, countered Wednesday that the sentence was carefully crafted after an all-day sentencing hearing and that Deputy Attorney General Amy Carnicella, who wrote the state's motion, is trying to force the judge into a re-sentencing. "The entire tone of the [motion] is designed to embarrass, belittle, and intimidate a judge who produced a thoughtful, well-reasoned opinion that brings honor to the bench," wrote Mr. Blackwell. "Such conduct should not only be quashed immediately, but should be chastised and admonished" for its failure to follow the rules of professional conduct, he said. Mr. Blackwell said Ms. Carnicella's motion insulted the judge by suggesting that he did not fully grasp the magnitude of Mr. Shipman's environmental crimes.

Half-million customers still without power

CHARLESTON GAZETTE CHARLESTON, W. Va. -- As hundreds of thousands of West Virginians huddled by candlelight Sunday for another night without TV, air conditioning and Internet access, the number one question was, "When will we get our power back?" The answer for many is not anytime soon. "I'm kind of wondering that too," said Phil Moye, a spokesman for Appalachian Power in Charleston. Moye was among more than a half-million customers of AEP and FirstEnergy subsidiaries Mon Power and Potomac Edison in the Mountain State still without power Sunday, two days after a freak line of thunderstorms called a derecho raced across the state, packing hurricane-force winds. "My wife says, 'Can't you have someone look at it?'" Moye said. "Yeah, I could, but in terms of prioritization, it's probably going to be Monday or Tuesday before anyone gets here." Shortly after noon Sunday, AEP said 291,634 customers were without power in West Virginia, down from 328,445 on Saturday morning. Mon Power listed about 179,000 customers without power, and Potomac Edison 32,000. The three utilities serve nearly all of the state. The storm, which swept from the Great Lakes to the Chesapeake Bay, devastated parts of Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and the District of Columbia. But West Virginia took the biggest hit, according to FirstEnergy. "It affected it fairly catastrophically," company spokesman Todd Meyers said Sunday. "Parkersburg took the brunt of the storm, with 90-plus mile-per-hour winds." Forecasters on Friday predicted a number of storm cells, but no one expected a continuous line stretching from the Northern Panhandle to south of Huntington, Meyers said. "It blew across the entire state. "In Ellenboro, a 500-kilovolt transmission line -- it crunched three towers. That's part of the interstate transmission grid, and it's out." Repair crews were at the scene Sunday, he said. "They'll build temporary structures and get that line back up by midweek, hopefully. Then in the fall, when you have less load, that's when you'll go back in and do permanent repairs. "Our problem, why so many customers are out, this one damaged over 50 large transmission lines and 70 substations." At its peak, the storm affected 280,000 customers, 56 percent of Mon Power's base in West Virginia. Among the worst hit counties were Lewis and Summers (99 percent out), Jackson (97 percent) and Barbour (93 percent).

Ruling in pipeline case suggests Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may accept less strict review

LEGAL INTELLIGENCER Energy and environmental lawyers across the state said a recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit giving the go-ahead to construction of a 39-mile long, 30-inch wide natural gas pipeline through northern Pennsylvania provides some guidance as to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's standard of review. A number of environmental groups had opposed FERC's order granting Central New York Oil and Gas Co. permission to build the pipeline, known as the MARC I, claiming the commission did not examine closely enough the possible environmental impact of the project. Coalition for Responsible Growth and Resource Conservation v. FERC plaintiffs alleged that the agency failed in determining an environmental

impact statement was unnecessary. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, an environmental impact statement, or EIS, is a detailed statement on the possible environmental effects of a proposed project. In the case, FERC conducted an environmental assessment, meant to help determine whether an EIS is necessary. The agency ultimately issued a finding of no significant impact, eliminating the need for an environmental impact statement. A three-judge panel of the Second Circuit ruled that, through the environmental assessment, FERC adequately considered the possible environmental impact the MARC I project could have. Elizabeth U. Witmer, a partner at Saul Ewing whose practice includes representing energy companies in siting pipeline facilities and who was not involved in this case, said the ruling is of interest to energy and environmental attorneys because it offers another example of the type of project for which an environmental assessment is sufficient. "It is important because it confirmed what FERC had been consistently doing," she said, explaining that the ruling "confirms that projects of the size and scope of MARC I" will typically only require environmental assessments to proceed.

Congress acts on federal employee bills

WASHINGTON POST Just before getting out of town for the Fourth of July holiday, both chambers of Congress and a Senate committee approved separate pieces of legislation Friday that would affect federal employees. The House and Senate passed a transportation bill that includes a provision to allow phased retirement for federal employees. Employees would be able to work part-time after retirement, with their salaries and annuities pro-rated. Proponents on both sides of the partisan divide expect the measure to save tax money while providing a way for experienced workers to transfer their skills and workplace knowledge to younger staff. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee gave final approval to bills that would update the Hatch Act, provide agencies with greater power to prevent government contractors from engaging in human trafficking and make it easier for veterans to obtain federal licenses. The Hatch Act measure would provide a greater range of penalties for federal employees who violate the act. Termination generally is the penalty. The legislation would allow reprimands, demotions and suspensions. The bill also would ease prohibitions on state and local government employees, whose positions receive federal funding, who run for partisan elective office. Among other provisions, the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act of 2012 would require companies with federal contracts worth at least \$1 million to certify that they have procedures to prevent human trafficking. This has been an issue for contractors who supply foreign labor for U.S. military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Veterans Skills to Jobs Act would facilitate employment of veterans by allowing agencies to use the training that veterans received in the military to meet the requirements for federal licenses in certain cases. The committee gave preliminary approval to the bills Wednesday, but the final vote was delayed until the panel had a quorum on Friday.

PENNSYLVANIA

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Deal will keep Sunoco refinery operating Sunoco Inc.'s troubled Philadelphia refinery, a major source of jobs and fuel that was threatened with closure at the end of this month, is getting a new lease on life as an "energy hub." The Carlyle Group, a Washington, D.C., private equity manager, announced plans on Monday to run the refinery as a joint venture with Sunoco called Philadelphia Energy Solutions. The venture will save 850 jobs at the refinery, the largest fuel-production plant in the Northeast, and may employ hundreds more if it carries through with plans to expand production. Carlyle officials say they are "reimagining" the business to exploit new, cheaper domestic sources of crude oil to replace expensive imported petroleum, a major reason the refinery was uncompetitive. Sunoco in September announced plans to exit refining and sell or shut down the plant this summer, saying it was losing a million dollars a day on fuel production. Carlyle, which will have a majority interest in the venture and operate the refinery, also plans to dramatically increase the use of low-priced natural gas from Pennsylvania's booming Marcellus Shale region to reduce refining costs and emissions. "This joint venture will keep one of the region's most important economic engines up and running," Carlyle Managing Director Rodney Cohen said. "The

refinery will be a reliable and critical supplier of fuels to the regional market through its new business structure and improved crude oil sourcing." The closure of the refinery would have had enormous economic reverberations. The federal Energy Department had warned that the refinery's shutdown could lead to spot shortages of fuels and price spikes. The state estimates that the plant, which hires a constant stream of skilled contractors for maintenance projects, supports 10,000 jobs indirectly.

100,000 still without power in S. Jersey More than 100,000 customers are still without electricity in South Jersey this morning following this weekend's deadly storms. Atlantic City Electric Co. says its crews are still working to restore power to 106,000 customers in Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, Burlington and Atlantic Counties. Hardest hit is Atlantic County, where 63,000 customers remain without power, including homes in the beach resort towns of Ventnor and Margate. The barrier islands in Cape May County, including Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Avalon, Stone Harbor and the Wildwoods, were spared the brunt of the storm. Atlantic City Electric said about 200,000 customers lost electricity because of storm-related damage. The utility says it could take crews until Friday to restore power to all those still without it. Three people were killed in the storms in South Jersey early Saturday, including two young cousins who were fatally injured when a tree fell on their tent in Parvin State Park in Salem County.

Storm's effects linger for Shore businesses (NJ) A day after a storm walloped many South Jersey beach towns, leaving businesses and homes without electricity and the comfort of air conditioning amid a heat wave, the lunchtime rush on Sunday at Sub-ology, a Ventnor restaurant hoping to hit it big in its first summer season, was just a trickle. The place was empty, save for Michael Simon's five employees and a man doing repair work. "A day like today is devastating. At 1:10 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, they should be lined up out the door," said Simon, who grew up across the street from his business and opened it in September. He added: "People should be scrambling behind the counter right now." Instead, it seemed the violent storm and the uncomfortable living conditions it spawned had caused vacationers to scramble for home. Beaches had more towel space, parking was more plentiful, and seating at restaurants – those with power – was easier to come by than is typical for a pre-Fourth of July weekend. That's not the run-up to the holiday that businesses already challenged by a seasonal economy had wanted. "This is our one shot," Simon said. "I have four months to make my living for 12 months."

Corbett signs \$27.65 billion budget with minutes to spare HARRISBURG - A triumphant Gov. Corbett signed the new state budget with minutes to spare before the deadline late Saturday, winning bipartisan support for his pro-jobs agenda, holding the line on taxes, and restoring hundreds of millions in education funding that he had targeted for elimination just months ago. Flanked by House GOP lawmakers, Corbett put his pen to the first of a series of bills authorizing the \$27.65 billion spending plan at 11:45 p.m., just shy of the start of the new fiscal year, while debate still raged in the Senate over a last-minute addition to the fiscal code, an essential budget element. That addition: a moratorium on drilling that applies only to sections of Southeastern Pennsylvania, a measure kept secret almost until it was time to vote on it. But even that eleventh-hour dust-up on the Senate floor was not enough to keep Corbett from signing an on-time state budget.

Pennsylvania budget reflects a commitment to business Pennsylvania's budget for the next 12 months reflects Gov. Corbett's avowed commitment to bring more jobs to the state and gives business plenty of reason to be pleased. "The goal is to transition Pennsylvania ... to grow jobs ... to usher in a new industrial revolution in Pennsylvania," Corbett said Saturday after signing the \$27.66 billion spending plan, which includes more than \$300 million in business tax breaks. The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry applauded the budget. "We are encouraged that elected officials are mindful both of the need for continued fiscal restraint in government spending and the need to foster private-sector job creation and sustainable economic growth," Chamber president Gene Barr said. The biggest short-term benefit to business is the continued phase-out of a levy that industry reviles as double taxation because it is based partly on profits that have been taxed in previous years.

Blog: Is Stress Messing with Healthy Meals at Your House? Any busy parent could have written the conclusion to a new Temple University study on crazy-busy families and the food choice we make. Yes, we hit the drive through on the way from after-school care to softball practice. Yes, we collapsed into a booth at the nearest pizza parlor on

Friday night because we all needed a break. No, I never cooked the kale in the fridge – no time. We ate hoagies. But that doesn't mean the new report, titled "Parental employment and work-family stress: Associations with family food environments" published in the July issue of *Social Science and Medicine*, has nothing to tell us. "For both parents, the more stress they were feeling about work getting in the way of family, the more we saw unhealthy dietary habits by parents and fewer opportunities for healthful eating in the home," said lead author, Katherine Bauer, an assistant professor of public health and researcher at Temple University's Center for Obesity Research and Education.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Western Pa. polluter's sentence sparks dispute The lawyer representing a Greene County businessman sentenced to probation for polluting waterways in six counties with illegally dumped wastewater has accused the state attorney general's office of trying to "bully" the sentencing judge into imposing a harsher penalty. Greene County Common Pleas Judge Farley Toothman this month sentenced Robert Allan Shipman, owner of Allan's Waste Water Service, to seven years of probation and 1,750 hours of community service, in addition to \$257,316 in restitution, a \$100,000 fine and a \$25,000 charitable contribution to be paid to the attorney general's office. The state prosecutor's office was angered by the probation sentence and said in a motion for reconsideration this week that Mr. Shipman should go to jail to send a message to others who would deliberately pollute the state. Mr. Shipman's lawyer, Christopher Blackwell, countered Wednesday that the sentence was carefully crafted after an all-day sentencing hearing and that Deputy Attorney General Amy Carnicella, who wrote the state's motion, is trying to force the judge into a re-sentencing. "The entire tone of the [motion] is designed to embarrass, belittle, and intimidate a judge who produced a thoughtful, well-reasoned opinion that brings honor to the bench," wrote Mr. Blackwell. "Such conduct should not only be quashed immediately, but should be chastised and admonished" for its failure to follow the rules of professional conduct, he said. Mr. Blackwell said Ms. Carnicella's motion insulted the judge by suggesting that he did not fully grasp the magnitude of Mr. Shipman's environmental crimes.

Oil and gas drilling permits on hold for southeastern Pa. HARRISBURG -- A last-minute regulatory exemption for a little-known geologic basin had lawmakers scratching their heads and drilling opponents decrying what they perceived as unequal treatment during Saturday's flurry of action in the state Capitol. A provision added to a budget measure on Friday -- and approved Saturday evening -- would temporarily prevent oil and gas drilling permits from being issued for the South Newark Basin, which stretches from New Jersey into Bucks and Montgomery counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. It is scheduled to expire in 2018. Lawmakers from Western Pennsylvania who had opposed the shale-drilling law approved in February as offering too few protections, condemned it as a special carve-out for southeastern residents. "Where was our study? Where was our six years?" asked Democratic Rep. Jesse White, who represents a portion of Washington County that hosts a significant amount of Marcellus Shale drilling. "What makes Bucks and Montgomery [counties] so special?" The basin has garnered attention due to a recent U.S. Geological Survey estimating that it could contain a significant reserve of natural gas within its various layers. While drilling has not yet occurred in Bucks County, Arbor Operating LLC has been issued four conventional drilling permits since 2007 and another request from Butler-based Turm Oil is under review by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Drilling cannot begin there until the Delaware River Basin Commission approves regulations for gas extraction, lifting an effective moratorium on a portion of Eastern Pennsylvania. Still, residents concerned about potential drilling activity have pressured Republican lawmakers who supported the new drilling law approved in February, such as Sen. Chuck McIlhinney, to reverse the zoning restrictions for their area.

Census data show unusual rise in Pittsburgh population New Census data released Thursday show that a just under half the population growth in Allegheny County occurred within the city proper, largely due to an estimated increase in Pittsburgh's dormitory and jail populations. Census estimates revealed that between April 1, 2010, and July 1, 2011, 3,718 people moved into the county. The city's population increased by an estimated 1,780 over that same 15-month period to 307,484. About 1,200 -- or 70 percent -- of those new Pittsburgh residents settled in city group quarter arrangements, said Rodger Johnson, chief of the bureau's Local Government Estimates and Migration

Processing Branch.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCER

Ruling in pipeline case suggests Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may accept less strict review Energy and environmental lawyers across the state said a recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit giving the go-ahead to construction of a 39-mile long, 30-inch wide natural gas pipeline through northern Pennsylvania provides some guidance as to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's standard of review. A number of environmental groups had opposed FERC's order granting Central New York Oil and Gas Co. permission to build the pipeline, known as the MARC I, claiming the commission did not examine closely enough the possible environmental impact of the project. Coalition for Responsible Growth and Resource Conservation v. FERC plaintiffs alleged that the agency failed in determining an environmental impact statement was unnecessary. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, an environmental impact statement, or EIS, is a detailed statement on the possible environmental effects of a proposed project. In the case, FERC conducted an environmental assessment, meant to help determine whether an EIS is necessary. The agency ultimately issued a finding of no significant impact, eliminating the need for an environmental impact statement. A three-judge panel of the Second Circuit ruled that, through the environmental assessment, FERC adequately considered the possible environmental impact the MARC I project could have. Elizabeth U. Witmer, a partner at Saul Ewing whose practice includes representing energy companies in siting pipeline facilities and who was not involved in this case, said the ruling is of interest to energy and environmental attorneys because it offers another example of the type of project for which an environmental assessment is sufficient. "It is important because it confirmed what FERC had been consistently doing," she said, explaining that the ruling "confirms that projects of the size and scope of MARC I" will typically only require environmental assessments to proceed.

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

Report: Nockamixon has wealth of natural gas For decades there has been talk about how much natural gas is trapped in the rock beneath the rural landscape of Nockamixon Township. Now the talk has an official estimate to back it up. The U.S. Geological Survey published a report last month estimating that some 876 billion cubic feet of gas is trapped in the South Newark Basin, a rock formation underlying Bucks, Berks, Chester and Montgomery counties and much of northwestern New Jersey. The estimate is of undiscovered resources, which does not take into account the economic viability of extracting the gas. At current prices of \$2.87 per thousand cubic feet, the gas in the South Newark Basin would be worth \$2.5 billion. It sounds like a lot, but it's a small fraction of the gas locked in the Marcellus Shale, which stretches across northern and western Pennsylvania and into New York, Ohio and West Virginia. "It's not very big, but not really small either," said Arthur Pyron, an oil and gas consultant who has written about and studied the Newark Basin. "The USGS tends to be very conservative." According to Pyron, the South Newark Basin might contain 10 times as much gas as the USGS estimated, making it a more attractive target of development. The basin has never been tapped. Pyron said the formation is much smaller than the Marcellus, but in the data he has seen, the potential gas-rich rock is far thicker. Most of the data collected on the South Newark Basin centers on a well in Nockamixon dubbed Cabot 2. The township beat back proposals to drill the well several years ago, and it has been targeted for new development by Turm Oil, a western Pennsylvania gas driller. Turm Oil applied in February to drill at the Cabot site and the application is pending, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

EASTON EXPRESS TIMES

Hellertown Superfund site groundwater contaminant limits raised, federal environmental officials say The federal government has agreed to less stringent regulations for contaminant levels at a Superfund site in Hellertown. The former Hellertown Manufacturing Co., a division of Champion Spark Plug Co., at 1770 Main St. in the borough, was added to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of the nation's most polluted properties in 1988. Agency spokesman Roy Seneca said lingering contaminants at the site will be measured against maximum contaminant levels established by Pennsylvania to measure the safety of drinking water. The adjustment will have no effects on the cost, scope or the method of cleanup at the site along Route 412, according to the agency. "Really,

what this does is create a more realistic goal” for cleanup efforts, Seneca said. The measurements that had been used at the site, known as detection limits, were nearly impossible to achieve, according to Seneca. These benchmarks are defined by the level at which equipment can detect certain compounds and chemicals in soil and groundwater and are far lower than the standards used more commonly around the state. “This is more attainable,” Seneca said of the new measurement standards. The 9-acre site was home to the spark plug manufacturer from 1930 to 1982. The company employed industrial operations that used various chemicals, according to the EPA. Groundwater on site was contaminated chiefly because of five unlined lagoons that were used to dispose of chemical wastes, including cutting oils, zinc-plating waste and chrome-dip waste, according to the EPA. In 1970, the EPA said the company reported it had discharged 300,000 drums of waste to the lagoons, which sat only three miles from an aquifer that provides water to the Hellertown Water Co. In 1991, the EPA began cleaning up the site, covering the lagoons and using techniques to extract and treat the chemicals and compounds in the groundwater. Ever since, environmental officials have been monitoring the area to ensure progress continued.

WILKES-BARRE TIMES LEADER

Penn State classes to benefit gas industry workers TOWANDA – Penn State Wilkes-Barre is branching out to serve workers in the Northern Tier’s Marcellus Shale gas industry. Starting in August, the university will offer courses at its Northern Tier Center in Towanda aimed at helping gas industry workers improve their job skills. The college unveiled the program at an open house Thursday at the center. “We feel that being in the heart of the Marcellus Shale industry it made sense to bring the program here,” said John Swayze, continuing education coordinator for Penn State Wilkes-Barre. “... The gas industry has just ballooned up in this region and what we’re trying to do is help that industry provide education and training to their employees.” The courses will be offered through an affiliate agreement with the Marcellus Shale Education & Training Center, or MSETC, a collaborative effort of Pennsylvania College of Technology and the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Instructors from the training center’s Williamsport and Wellsboro campuses will travel to Towanda to teach. The center tried out a similar program last year at a Penn State satellite campus in Dubois, Clearfield County. MSETC Assistant Director Jackie Stash said that program has already seen success. “We’ve been offering classes on a fairly regular basis out there,” Stash said. “We have an assortment of classes probably almost monthly ... It’s able to provide training for folks who are out in the industry where it’s a little bit more convenient for them.”

NORRISTOWN PATCH

Pa. Legislators Pass Moratorium on Gas Drilling in Montgomery and Surrounding Counties The provision was attached to a state budget measure which lawmakers approved late Saturday night. Companies that want to drill for natural gas in Montgomery County will have to wait. State lawmakers on Saturday night approved a moratorium on gas drilling in Montgomery, Bucks and parts of Lehigh, Berks and Chester counties. The moratorium will affect any oil or gas operations in the South Newark Basin, which underlies a swath of territory extending from Bucks through MontCo and into Berks County. The moratorium is needed so scientists and engineers can better study the gas deposits held deep below ground, lawmakers said Saturday. "This legislation makes good on my promise that Act 13 was not intended to apply to Bucks County," State Sen. Chuck McIlhinney, R-10, said in a statement. "My colleagues in Harrisburg never intended for the Marcellus Shale law to affect our region, and now that a newly discovered formation exists, they agree that a moratorium on drilling is appropriate to give us the same time to study and debate the issue for our local area." McIlhinney worked with Republican state lawmakers from Bucks County, including Sen. Bob Mensch (R-24), Rep. Marguerite Quinn (R-143), Rep. Kathy Watson (R-144) and Rep. Paul Clymer (R-145), to draft the language of the moratorium.

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

DEP Secretary Krancer Stumps for Natural Gas Processing Facility in Delaware County Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer took the microphone multiple times at a press conference this week aimed at promoting the conversion of the idled Sunoco refinery into a natural gas processing facility. Krancer wanted to assure any prospective investors that they would experience a friendly and expedited permit process. “We as a Department of Environmental Protection will work hand in glove, very closely, cooperatively and spirit-

edly with anyone who would want to participate in activities at this facility,” said Krancer. Krancer said DEP employees will “work night and day” to get industry the necessary permits. “They’ll find a DEP that is creative and wants to get to the right result for environmental protection and economic development because the two are not mutually exclusive,” he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Drilling delay bill is passed Pa. legislation would put moratorium on South Newark Basin. HARRSBURG — The state House and Senate have approved a bill that would slap a moratorium on drilling into the untapped South Newark Basin natural gas reservoir below portions of southeastern Pennsylvania. The provision approved Saturday was in a key piece of budget-related legislation, and was expected to get Gov. Tom Corbett’s signature. The United States Geological Survey estimates the South Newark Basin has 876 billion cubic feet of gas. That’s a fraction of the 141 trillion cubic feet thought to be in the Marcellus Shale formation below much of Pennsylvania. The provision would bar state regulators from issuing drilling permits in the basin until a state agency evaluates the impact of drilling there and the host counties are legally allowed to impose a drilling fee. The moratorium would last until 2018.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Outages persist as Washington returns to work The Washington area awoke Monday morning to fewer power outages and an easier-than-expected commute, with the challenge of downed trees and darkened intersections partly offset by holiday week traffic volume and the lifting of some rush-hour restrictions. Many area highways were emptier than usual, thanks to residents who were on planned July 4th vacations, or had left town to escape sweltering homes and rapidly defrosting refrigerators, and to a decision by the federal government and other employers to offer those who had power at home the option of teleworking.

Power outages drag on in DC region; officials fuming at utility companies With much of Montgomery County still without power Monday morning, and 911 problems adding to the chaos in across Northern Virginia on Sunday, local officials vowed to press utilities to restore service more quickly. “I will not accept the timetable of July the 6th, said Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D), shortly after Pepco announced some homes would not have their power restored until Friday or even later. “Having our citizens go seven days without utilities in my opinion is not the kind of service we should expect.” With recovery from Friday night’s storm stretching into the week ahead, school officials in the District, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties announced that the schools would be closed Monday for summer sessions and other events. And Maryland declared liberal leave for all non-essential state employees. But all federal agencies are set to open Monday, though officials said workers could take unscheduled leave or telework. The District government will be open on Monday, officials said. Dozens of city traffic signals remain without power. But Paul Quander, the District’s deputy mayor for public safety and justice, said traffic control officers will be in place at anticipated trouble spots for the Monday morning commute. As of 5:30 a.m., about 492,000 Washington-area businesses and households remained out of service, according to data furnished on utility Web sites, down from a high of 1.5 million without power in the hours after the storm.

Congress acts on federal employee bills Just before getting out of town for the Fourth of July holiday, both chambers of Congress and a Senate committee approved separate pieces of legislation Friday that would affect federal employees. The House and Senate passed a transportation bill that includes a provision to allow phased retirement for federal employees. Employees would be able to work part-time after retirement, with their salaries and annuities pro-rated. Proponents on both sides of the partisan divide expect the measure to save tax money while providing a way for experienced workers to transfer their skills and workplace knowledge to younger staff. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee gave final approval to bills that would update the Hatch Act, provide agencies with greater power to prevent government contractors from engaging in human trafficking and make it easier for veterans to obtain federal licenses. The Hatch Act measure would provide a

greater range of penalties for federal employees who violate the act. Termination generally is the penalty. The legislation would allow reprimands, demotions and suspensions. The bill also would ease prohibitions on state and local government employees, whose positions receive federal funding, who run for partisan elective office. Among other provisions, the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act of 2012 would require companies with federal contracts worth at least \$1 million to certify that they have procedures to prevent human trafficking. This has been an issue for contractors who supply foreign labor for U.S. military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Veterans Skills to Jobs Act would facilitate employment of veterans by allowing agencies to use the training that veterans received in the military to meet the requirements for federal licenses in certain cases. The committee gave preliminary approval to the bills Wednesday, but the final vote was delayed until the panel had a quorum on Friday.

Commentary: For Ken Cuccinelli, losing big cases won't work forever When it comes to high-profile legal cases, Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli II reminds me of Teddy Roosevelt — but not the actual progressive president of a century ago. Instead, Cuccinelli is akin to the oversized, foam-headed Teddy mascot who “competes” against other presidents in fourth-inning footraces at Nationals Park. Teddy, famously, has never won. With two new, major court defeats last week, Cuccinelli’s record is almost as woeful... He suffered another setback on Tuesday when a federal appeals court in the District slapped down a legal case against the Environmental Protection Agency. Cuccinelli was a leader among plaintiffs arguing that the EPA was wrong to find that greenhouse gases contribute to climate change and threaten public health. In a sharply worded rebuff, the court said instead that the EPA’s position was “unambiguously correct.” Like Teddy, Cuccinelli is used to coming up short. Although he’s won battles over voter redistricting and Medicaid fraud, he’s had a remarkable number of losses on closely watched cases. Ironically, his much-publicized complaint against Obamacare didn’t even make it to the Supreme Court, because an appeals court tossed it out on grounds that he lacked standing to sue.

Commentary: What’s the true impact of outsourcing? The battle has been going on since at least the 1880s, when the first New England textile mills began moving production to the Carolinas. Whatever name it goes by — “runaway plants,” “outsourcing,” “global sourcing,” “offshoring”— workers and the public tend to hate it, executives view it as inevitable and economists defend it as part of the painful process by which market economies prosper. Now, President Obama and his election-year rival, Mitt Romney, have joined the debate. Their focus is Romney’s tenure as head of Bain Capital, which owned controlling stakes in firms that either moved their own work overseas or specialized in helping other companies do so.

Partial list of new laws in Md., Va. (Sunday) ...Maryland :

HB 446: Doubles the “flush tax” on most Marylanders to \$60 annually to benefit upgrades to wastewater treatment plants and other Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts.

HB 987: Requires localities to fund projects to cut polluted runoff from roads, buildings and parking lots.

SB 236: Requires counties to adopt rules to limit new housing developments served by septic systems, especially ones in areas dominated by farmland and forestland.

WTOP-RADO

Federal agencies open, challenging commute expected Monday Many are tweeting WTOP about their neighborhood and whether power is on. Please feel free to let others know. Use @WTOP on Twitter to let everyone know about your area. Need to vent? What's your biggest complaint related to the storms? Have you seen things that are encouraging? Comment on WTOP's Facebook Page or use #WTOPTalkback or #WTOP on Twitter.

WASHINGTON - The first work commute after Friday's rare derecho storm is proving to be a difficult one. More than 640,000 homes and businesses without electricity and hundreds of traffic lights are out across the region. For some, the power won't be back on until next weekend, power companies say. The forecast this week calls for temperatures in the 90s, with the chance of thunderstorms -- conditions that could still cause heat-related illnesses for those in high-rises and other buildings without heat. The air quality Monday is a Code Yellow. Federal agencies will be open Monday, but employees have the option for unscheduled leave or unscheduled telework. Some local governments are allowing liberal leave. A number of public schools with summer school programs will be closed, including Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (D.C.)

Pepco restores power to high-voltage lines, water pumping plants also restored (Sunday) WASHINGTON — Pepco says it has restored power to all high-voltage transmission lines and all substations, a major step in getting power back to customers. However, the utility says extensive damage caused by Friday's storms means it could be a week before all customers have power restored. Crews are arriving from the Carolinas Sunday, and mutual assistance crews from southern states will arrive Monday to help with the restoration effort. As of 9 a.m. Sunday, nearly 350,000 Pepco customers were without power. Pepco has more than 780,000 customers in the district and part of Maryland. Pepco says all water pumping plants have been restored.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Many Delmarva Power customers still without electric service after storms More than 2,200 Delmarva Power customers remain without electric service this morning in the wake of weekend storms that left tens of thousands out in the midst of a stifling heat wave. Most of the remaining outages are in Cecil and Kent counties in Maryland, where more than 1,700 remained out at 6:20 a.m. today. About 200 are out in New Castle County and only a couple dozen in Kent and Sussex counties in Delaware, according to the company's website.

A sweet paradise with a catch helps tag fleet-winged bird Hummingbirds are such loyal — and hungry — creatures that even after Chuck Fullmer took down 14 of his 15 feeders, dozens of the tiny jewels still came buzzing through his backyard buffet for a blast of sugar water. They found it in the one feeder Fullmer left hanging. It was tucked inside a 3-foot-tall cage and when the birds helicoptered in, Fullmer pulled a fishing line to close a trap door. Then, he reached inside the cage and gently tucked the bird into his palm. From there, he slipped it into a black mesh bag and walked to a table where Bruce Peterjohn was waiting with the tools of an expert hummingbird bander.

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

Delaware loan program helps spread irrigation to more than 850 acres of farmland More than 850 acres of Delaware farmland will be irrigated this year with support from an innovative economic development and agricultural loan program now marking its first year. The revolving loan fund is a joint effort between the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Delaware Economic Development Office which has aided 15 farmers across the state. The program will grow, as applications are continually being accepted. The Delaware Rural Irrigation Program was created in July 2011 with \$1 million from the Delaware Strategic Fund. It has made \$223,570 in no-interest loans, for an average of \$14,598 per farm. Gov. Jack Markell said the program is an important part of his administration's commitment to growing jobs in Delaware. "Agribusiness has a multiplier effect, supporting on-farm jobs and related industries," Markell said. "This loan program provides our farmers with the support they need to help both their businesses and crops grow." Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee said the program is an excellent example of how government agencies can partner with each other and with private industry. "This program helps support our family farms by making them more profitable. Irrigation provides an edge against the unpredictability of a dry season and improves crop yields," Kee said. "With just 24 percent of Delaware cropland under irrigation, this initiative is helping reach crops that may not otherwise have thrived." Kee also noted that irrigation has significant environmental benefits, making crops more efficient in the uptake of nutrients so they don't stay in the soil during dry weather and then add to nutrient loading during the wet fall and winter months. "This is truly a triple-win program - for the agricultural economy, for consumers and for the environment," he said.

Center maps Inland Bays for oyster farms A map outlining areas ripe for oyster beds in the Inland Bays is the latest step taken by a local group pushing to bring back commercial oyster harvesting to the area. The Inland Bays Oyster

Aquaculture Tiger Team – formed in March by the Center for the Inland Bays – presented a map June 22 during a CIB board of directors meeting pinpointing potential areas for oyster harvesting. The map also makes note of areas not available for oyster harvesting because of navigation channels, hatchery sites, shoreline restrictions and areas with high bacterial levels. Overall, boating and other human activities are the biggest activities in the Inland Bays, but those activities could function around oyster farms, said Bart Wilson, CIB science coordinator. "Human use is a habit, and it can be changed to allow for other uses," he said. Areas targeted for oyster farming are small compared to the total area of the Inland Bays, Wilson said. In Rehoboth Bay, an area of 319 acres set aside for oyster farming near the mouth of Love Creek takes up 3.4 percent of the bay. A 560-acre area in Indian River Bay would use about 6 percent of the bay's total. Using the success of oyster aquaculture in Rhode Island as an example of what could be done in the Inland Bays, CIB restoration coordinator E.J. Chalabala said the 160-acre aquaculture industry there brings in about \$2.7 million a year and creates 26 full-time and 58 part-time jobs. He said because the area available for harvesting oysters in the Inland Bays is larger, oyster farming in the Inland Bays could potentially generate more revenue.

Help give wildlife a second chance In 1976, following the last in a series of five oil spills in the Delaware River where thousands of animals died, Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research was founded to explore the effects of oil on wildlife and to develop research and treatment procedures. Today, Tri-State Bird Rescue, whose facility is located in Newark, operates a federally licensed, nonprofit avian rehabilitation clinic and cares for 3,000 injured and orphaned native birds annually. The agency staffs a professional 24-hour oil spill-response management team. "We get anywhere from 100 to 150 species of birds every year, but it can be a lot more depending on the situation," said Lisa Smith, executive director of Tri-State Bird Rescue. If no oil spill occurs, Tri-State's most likely customers are baby birds. They might have an injury if they have fallen from a nest, or they might have been picked up by a cat or a dog, causing soft-tissue injuries. From the incubator, the little birds graduate to a laundry basket or a screen cage, depending on the species, and from there they go to an outside cage.

Organic farming on display in Georgetown The desire to know more about how food is produced is fueling a local food movement, and one Georgetown farmer hopes to show residents how organic food became her passion. Carolyn Berl Donald has been operating The Organic Farm of Delaware Inc. in Georgetown as a wholesale operation for more than seven years. Now she wants residents to see for themselves why organic food and farming is important. The organic farm opened to the public in May. It showcases free-range broiler chickens, which are raised for meat, as well as herds of brown sex-link chickens, which are the egglayers. The farm also houses four pigs, several geese, ducks and 40 acres of organic farmland. Donald works with other area organic growers such as C&J Farm in Seaford, which raises grass-fed beef, and Swallow Acre Farm in Georgetown, which raises organic pork. "It's a very tough business to make money in," Donald said. "But, we do it because it is our passion." Donald and her sisters grew up in Wilmington in a farming area. They saw firsthand the value of farm-to-table living. "I guess we got the farming bug," Donald said. "At one point we were all looking for land to have a farm, so we got together and purchased these 40 acres in Georgetown."

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Half-million customers still without power CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- As hundreds of thousands of West Virginians huddled by candlelight Sunday for another night without TV, air conditioning and Internet access, the number one question was, "When will we get our power back?" The answer for many is not anytime soon. "I'm kind of wondering that too," said Phil Moye, a spokesman for Appalachian Power in Charleston. Moye was among more than a half-million customers of AEP and FirstEnergy subsidiaries Mon Power and Potomac Edison in the Mountain State still without power Sunday, two days after a freak line of thunderstorms called a derecho raced

across the state, packing hurricane-force winds. "My wife says, 'Can't you have someone look at it?'" Moyer said. "Yeah, I could, but in terms of prioritization, it's probably going to be Monday or Tuesday before anyone gets here." Shortly after noon Sunday, AEP said 291,634 customers were without power in West Virginia, down from 328,445 on Saturday morning. Mon Power listed about 179,000 customers without power, and Potomac Edison 32,000. The three utilities serve nearly all of the state. The storm, which swept from the Great Lakes to the Chesapeake Bay, devastated parts of Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and the District of Columbia. But West Virginia took the biggest hit, according to FirstEnergy. "It affected it fairly catastrophically," company spokesman Todd Meyers said Sunday. "Parkersburg took the brunt of the storm, with 90-plus mile-per-hour winds." Forecasters on Friday predicted a number of storm cells, but no one expected a continuous line stretching from the Northern Panhandle to south of Huntington, Meyers said. "It blew across the entire state. "In Ellenboro, a 500-kilovolt transmission line -- it crunched three towers. That's part of the interstate transmission grid, and it's out." Repair crews were at the scene Sunday, he said. "They'll build temporary structures and get that line back up by midweek, hopefully. Then in the fall, when you have less load, that's when you'll go back in and do permanent repairs. "Our problem, why so many customers are out, this one damaged over 50 large transmission lines and 70 substations." At its peak, the storm affected 280,000 customers, 56 percent of Mon Power's base in West Virginia. Among the worst hit counties were Lewis and Summers (99 percent out), Jackson (97 percent) and Barbour (93 percent).

West Virginia American Water has four water tankers set up CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginia American Water has four water tankers stationed at locations around Southern West Virginia for people affected by Friday's severe storm damage, company officials announced Sunday afternoon. The tankers are at the South Charleston Community Center on Jefferson Road in South Charleston; at the Salt Rock Fire Department at 5512 W.Va. 10 in Salt Rock; at Kinetic Park Drive in Huntington off Hal Greer Boulevard/Troy Brown Highway, and adjacent to Bob Evans; and in Fayette County at the Exxon gas station off the Mossy/U.S. 60 exit of the West Virginia Turnpike.

Power may be out for week CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency is sending truckloads of water and generators to help West Virginians reeling in the aftermath of Friday night's storm, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin said Saturday. As Tomblin addressed the crisis during an afternoon news conference at Yeager Airport, people in Kanawha and Putnam counties searched for gas, ice and relief from heat and worked to clean up their homes. Tomblin said the state is "on top of it." Fifty-three of West Virginia's 55 counties experienced power loss, Tomblin said, and the outage is one of the biggest in recent history. On Saturday, Appalachian Power estimated that it could take crews until late Friday to fully restore power to Kanawha, Putnam, Cabell, McDowell, Mercer, Summers and Wayne counties, with the earliest restoration being Lincoln County, on Tuesday. Wayne County can anticipate power by Wednesday night. Fayette, Jackson, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Raleigh and Wyoming counties should have power by Thursday night. Finally, on Saturday Boone and Clay counties, as well as some remote portions of Kanawha County should have power.

Water company will not shut off service CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginia American Water officials said there are no plans to shut off water service to its customer base. Crews are working around the clock to restore service to its customers, according to a recent press release, and no planned water outages have been scheduled. Small pockets of customers in higher elevations may still experience incremental outages, the release states. Oak Hill, in Fayette County, is experiencing an outage because of a generator malfunction at the New River water treatment plant, which caused the water storage tanks that serve the town to deplete.

Storm slams West Virginia (Saturday) CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- A powerful thunderstorm accompanied by high wind and heavy rain swept eastward across West Virginia late Friday, uprooting trees, downing power lines, blocking roads, disabling traffic lights and bringing outdoor activities to a halt. Appalachian Power Co. reported that the storm left more than 332,000 homes and businesses, or nearly 70 percent of its West Virginia customers, without power. In Kanawha County, 72,000 homes and businesses out of a total of 104,000 customers, were left without electricity.

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

Residents cope with lengthy outage CHARLESTON, W.Va. - More than 68,000 Kanawha County residents remained without power Sunday, and full restoration of services was not predicted until the weekend. Officials worried that a round of thunderstorms predicted for Sunday evening would complicate matters. More thunderstorms were predicted for today, too. "At this point we're all concerned that the power and the air is not working in 70,000 homes and businesses in our area," said county manager Jennifer Sayre. "We know AEP is out there working on it and trying to get us back in service. "We can help each other by staying in contact with the elderly in their homes and checking in on neighbors." Here's a roundup of the situation in Kanawha and Putnam counties: Two nursing homes were evacuated after the storm, but patients since have returned to the facilities. Sayre said residents of Dunbar Care and Rehabilitation Center and Charleston Gardens were evacuated Saturday. Dunbar patients went to West Virginia State University in Institute Saturday but were taken back to their facility Sunday. Charleston Gardens residents were taken to the University of Charleston, where they spent most of the day until crews were able to connect the facility's generator to the city's electric supply that evening. Residents were able to return Saturday evening. She said those who were ambulatory were taken by KRT, but others were transported by ambulance.

PARKERSBURG NEWS AND SENTINEL

Debris, power outages still litter area PARKERSBURG - Progress was slow and sure on Sunday after a storm on Friday knocked out electrical service throughout the regio.

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Gov. Tomblin declares state of emergency after storms July 2, 2012 · Severe storms across the state have left thousands of West Virginians without power, and the governor is calling a state of emergency. Weekend storms left more than two million people in the eastern United States without power, including as many as 500,000 West Virginians in 27 counties. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin declared a state of emergency for the entire state. People without power are advised to stay cool and drink plenty of water. The elderly and others susceptible to extreme heat are asked to move to an air conditioned location. All West Virginians are urged to check in on friends and neighbors who may need assistance, and to call 911 in the event of emergency.

Green Wheeling Initiative gains momentum The Green Wheeling Initiative began informally in 2010. Today it's a grassroots organization comprised of educators, farmers, entrepreneurs, and professionals dedicated to strengthening the local food supply in the Wheeling area. To date, the initiative has been awarded over \$65,000 in grant funding from local and national foundations. This money is being used to create business plans, provide community micro-grants, and to have a positive impact on the growth of the local food supply.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

More than 257,000 still without power in extreme heat Monday commute likely to be a 'very, very big mess' with traffic signals out, roads snarled, governor says. BGE officials continued to scramble Sunday to restore power to nearly more than 257,000 customers as the area suffered with temperatures near 100 degrees for a third day and braced for a chaotic Monday-morning commute.

Magnitude of storm shocked meteorologists, utility workers Heat was a warning sign but no one expected line of fierce storms from Midwest to Mid-Atlantic. Heat was a warning but no one expected line of fierce storms from

Midwest to Mid-Atlantic...

Coping with yet another day without electricity frustrates many Two days after ferocious thunderstorms ripped through the area, the frustrations of a second scorching afternoon without air conditioning were rising with the temperature. Residents complained about the inability to get information from Baltimore Gas and Electric Co., having to throw out hundreds of dollars' worth of food and deal with intersections where traffic signals were not working.

Heat wave brings more smog (Friday) Code Orange air-quality warning forecast through weekend. With temperatures predicted to top 100 degrees today and stay in the high 90s into next week, air-quality forecasters are warning that smog across much of Maryland likely will reach unhealthy levels for children, older adults and anyone with breathing or heart problems.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

Protecting Chesapeake Bay from pollution a concerted, constant effort The 15-page report, produced by the Choose Clean Water Coalition, details ways for local elected officials and planners to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment throughout inland waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. "Pollution control is local," said Jennifer Bevan-Dangel of the Maryland Choose Clean Water Coalition. "Local leaders must be engaged in this process, for they play a crucial role in achieving pollution-reduction goals. Local plans contain key strategies for who does what and when." Watershed Implementation Plans are just one of the ways county and local governments are working to meet goals for water quality established by the Maryland and federal governments. Throughout Wicomico County, a coordinated effort has been playing out between the county government and the city of Salisbury to eliminate pollution in local waterways and put them on a diet. "It's a pollution diet for our waterways," said Kieth Hall, planner for Salisbury-Wicomico County Planning, Zoning and Community Development and the team leader for the Watershed Implementation Plan team. "Right now all the counties and municipalities are all collectively working in this watershed implementation planning team." Hall said there are many "exciting" initiatives to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment in Delmarva's waterways. Among the more prominent solutions are drain covers along the Wicomico River to reduce floating pollution, a voluntary tree-planting program, increasing funding to upgrade septic systems and improving wastewater treatment plants. Jack Lenox, director of Planning and Zoning for Wicomico County and Salisbury, said coordination between not only municipal and county governments but also state governments is key to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Editorial: Delmarva's beaches are the cleanest Ocean City and Dewey Beach are listed among 12 sites listed by the Natural Resources Defense Council's 22nd annual "Testing the Waters: A Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches" report, as the cleanest beaches in the nation for swimming and also the most closely monitored for water pollution from stormwater runoff, sewage and pollutants. Rehoboth Beach, on the other hand, lost one star it had been granted last year. Among hundreds of U.S. beaches whose data was analyzed by the NRDC, Delaware has the cleanest beaches overall with just 1 percent of water samples in 2011 showing signs of excessive bacteria in the water. Rehoboth's demotion was brought about by process rather than any indication of bacterial contamination or pollution; it did not take as many samples as it did in the past --two fewer samplings was all it took. Likewise for Bethany Beach and Lewes. In Maryland, while no Atlantic coastline beach at Assateague Island or Ocean City recorded any unsafe bacteria levels in 2011, and monitoring between Memorial Day and Labor Day was frequent enough to get those sites listed as five-star beaches. Maryland's ranking as 11th among 30 states was not because of any problems at Ocean City or Assateague; it was brought about by problems at some beaches surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. The rankings give both Maryland and Delaware ammunition in their pursuit of tourists. Despite Maryland's issues with the Chesapeake Bay, the worst beaches tend to be in states surrounding the Great Lakes. Visitors to Delmarva's Atlantic coast will experience some of the most pristine, clear water in the nation. Much of the problems involve runoff from human activity on land --vehicle exhaust, oils, toxins and garbage drain into the sea and nearby beaches pay the price. Although Maryland's ranking was affected by ongoing problems with the Chesapeake Bay, there is good news this year. The bay's dead zones --areas with low oxygen levels --are decreased in size this June compared to a year ago. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources collects samples, and said

for 2012, 12 percent of the bay's main stem showed low oxygen levels compared to a year ago, when a third had levels too low to sustain marine life. The long-term average is 17 percent. It could be a very good year in the bay. Perhaps.

New, high-tech tools track those pesky summer stingers, sea nettles CRISFIELD -- Anyone who has ever been swimming in the Chesapeake Bay during the summer has likely encountered those gelatinous, tentacled blobs floating in the water that sting and leave red marks on the skin. "I've gotten stung lots of times," said Billie Jo Chandler, who heads a committee that recently spruced up the Brick Kiln beach in Crisfield. "I've not seen any so far (this summer), but they're bound to come." Now residents who use public beaches along the bay have some high-tech ways to keep tabs on sea nettles -- or jellyfish -- in a year that could bring a lot of them into local waters. "Conditions are ripe for a large bloom," said Maggie Sexton, a jellyfish researcher at the Horn Point Laboratory outside Cambridge, part of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Warm weather and high salinity levels create the right atmosphere for the creatures to reproduce, and this year they were first spotted on June 7 -- nearly three weeks earlier than normal, she said. The lab now has a live "Jellyfish Cam" attached to a dock in the Choptank River, which can be viewed on the Horn Point website. Sexton said she hopes to add more cameras across the bay to more accurately track the population. "I've caught two on the camera so far, but I hope to see more later in the season," she said. The public also can get more information about them from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which now measures "sea nettle probability" with buoys in the Chesapeake Bay.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Farm's conservation highlighted EMMITSBURG -- Farmers are often faulted for polluted waterways, but Whitmore Farm offers an example of soil and water conservation done right. The 30-acre organic meat farm was one of three locations used recently to highlight practices farmers use to help reduce nutrient and sediment loads to local waters and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Whitmore Farm raises goats, sheep, hogs, rabbits and rare breeds of chickens. The farm has installed buffer strips and hedgerows that surround each pasture to filter any runoff, fencing around creeks and streams and an automatic livestock watering system that provides water in lieu of the stream. The operation also has on-farm composting of manure and bedding prior to land application, rotational grazing for perennial pasture management and a polytunnel for extending the vegetable growing season. Partially funded by the National Resource Conservation Service, these programs help ensure nutrients remain on the farm as an asset and not a pollutant, choking off fish and plants in the Bay, said William Morrow, who co-owns Whitmore Farm with Kent Ozkum. "We are proud to be identified as a farm with exemplary conservation practices," Morrow said. The farming industry has been in the spotlight recently because of renewed efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, Morrow said. "Farms are the largest source of nutrient pollution to the Bay, and farms have a responsibility to ensure that nutrients remain on the farm and not enter local waterways."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Maryland law changes, tax hikes take effect ANNAPOLIS -- Maryland residents who earn more than \$100,000 annually will pay more income taxes and many will pay higher fees to flush their toilets under new laws taking effect this weekend. Under the income-tax law, single taxpayers with an adjusted gross income higher than \$100,000 and couples who make more than \$150,000 will see their taxes rise from a quarter of a percentage point to half a percentage point. The tax increases will be retroactive to January. The state's "flush" tax on sewer bills will double from \$2.50 a month to \$5 a month -- or from \$30 to \$60 annually -- under a measure aimed at upgrading wastewater treatment facilities to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. The law exempts people who don't live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, led the charge to boost the tax. Both laws take effect today following a 90-day legislative session that extended from January through April and included major environmental measures. Those measures were largely overshadowed by a last-minute deadlock over the budget that forced O'Malley to call a special session in May.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Commentary: Don't judge uranium mining in a vacuum Should Virginia lift its ban on uranium mining? The question has generated a lot of heat, but not much light. On Wednesday, this column looked at uranium mining in isolation (<http://goo.gl/glcoZ>) and made three points:

(1) The recent report by the National Academy of Sciences was too vague to be of much use, and the use to which it has been put by opponents is misleading.

(2) Opponents of lifting the moratorium throw around a lot of numbers that sound scary but mean little.

(3) The uranium industry in Canada, where more uranium has been produced than in any other country on the planet, has an excellent environmental, health, and safety record, according to a review of the literature by the Canadian government.

That last point is worth dwelling on. Among many other things, the Canadian government — not the industry, the government — says "uranium mining and processing workers were as healthy as the general Canadian male population." And: "Radon exposure to members of the public from [government]-regulated [mining] activities is virtually zero." And: "Do uranium mines and mills increase radon levels in the environment? No." And: "Studies and monitoring have shown that there are no significant impacts to the health of the public living near uranium mines and mills." ... In short, then, there is very little to fear from uranium mining or nuclear power when considered in isolation. But we must not consider the issue in isolation — because the fossil-fuel alternatives are, in fact, considerably worse. Just ask Joseph Romm, who studies energy issues at the Center for American Progress — a liberal think tank founded and run by former Clinton and Obama staffers. "There is no question," Romm has said, that "nothing is worse than fossil fuels for killing people."

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

Offshore drilling ban draws bipartisan opposition The Obama administration's decision to continue excluding Virginia's coastal waters from offshore oil and gas drilling is drawing bipartisan criticism from state politicians. In the final five-year plan announced by the administration Thursday, Virginia waters will remain off limits to drilling until at least 2017. Gov. Bob McDonnell, Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and U.S. Rep. Scott Rigell of Virginia Beach, all Republicans, immediately put out statements condemning the decision. "Offshore energy exploration and development would mean thousands of new jobs and millions in new revenue here in the commonwealth," McDonnell said. "Virginians need the jobs and America needs the energy." U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, a Democrat, criticized the decision as well. Webb and Sen. Mark Warner, also a Democrat, are both on record favoring Virginia's inclusion in the federal offshore leasing plan. In addition, both candidates to succeed Webb in the Senate next year distanced themselves from the administration on the issue. George Allen, the Republican candidate, said the administration "continues to obstruct Virginia's energy resources and is blocking thousands of new, good-paying jobs." Tim Kaine, the Democratic candidate, said he, too, disagrees with the decision and supports an "all-of-the-above energy policy that promotes responsible domestic energy production from traditional and alternative sources."

Editorial: Offshore drilling: Off target A few days ago Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced what he called a targeted leasing plan for drilling in the coastal waters of the United States. The five-year plan will permit exploration in the arctic waters off Alaska's northern coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. It will not include the potentially rich reserves off Virginia's eastern shore. The omission has provoked bipartisan dismay among state leaders, as it should. While drilling off Virginia's coast presents both environmental and national-security challenges, the same could be said of the Gulf. Including Virginia would have given the state's economy a boost and helped it pursue the wisest approach to energy — a comprehensive one. But it also would have put a feather in Gov. Bob McDonnell's cap, elevating the stature of a Republican with national ambitions. Perhaps the Obama administration decided that was something it ought to avoid.

Virginians, hot and powerless, brace for more storms A day after seeking refuge at shopping malls and movie theaters, hoping the lights would be back on when they returned, 3 million residents in the eastern United States faced a grim reality Sunday: stifling homes, spoiled food and a looming commute filled with knocked-out stoplights. Two days after storms tore across the region, power outages were forcing people to get creative to stay cool in dangerously hot weather. Temperatures approached 100 degrees in many storm-stricken areas, and utility officials said the power will likely be out for several more days. Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell urged patience Sunday as utility crews worked to restore power to more than 730,000 electric customers in the state. About 6:30 a.m. today Dominion Virginia Power reported there were still more than 250,000 customers in the dark. Only about 3,400 of those were in North Carolina and 490 were in southeastern Virginia. Appalachian Power says more than 200,000 of its customers are without service. More than 16,000 customers of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative also remain with power. Appalachian Power says more storms on Sunday caused additional outages in the Wytheville and Woodlawn areas.

Weather service confirms tornado struck in Va. RICHMOND The National Weather Service in Wakefield has confirmed an EF-0 tornado that struck near Mechanicsville on Saturday. On the ground for about 10 minutes, the tornado followed a path of almost 7.5 miles and was 50 to 100 yards wide.

SUFFOLK NEWS-HERALDS

Bay experience broadens teachers' horizons Two Suffolk educators returned Friday from some picturesque regions of the Chesapeake Bay with a new understanding of the importance of protecting our waterways. For Ann-Rene Challenger, a health science and chemistry teacher at Lakeland High School, paddling a canoe on the Mattaponi River was a highlight. "The canoe trip gave a close view of the river," Challenger said. "We took (water quality) readings and compared them at different locations for the fish and plant and animal life, and turned around and compared that to the salt water to see what was good and what was bad, and the differences." The watershed teacher education program was led by Chesapeake Bay Foundation senior education Bill Portlock. Overnight accommodation was at St. Margaret's School and Port Isobel, a 250-acre island east of Tangier Island. Mary Rollins, a special education teacher at King's Fork Middle School, said she now better understands how people's ordinary actions affect the bay, and how they can reverberate far beyond the watershed. She was talking, for instance, about how when a car is washed in a driveway, the runoff eventually makes it into the bay. "What we do here in our homes eventually winds up back there, and it eventually influences water quality not only here but everywhere," she said. "It also gets into the food and produce that we generate from this area." Rollins said she was interested to learn how science influences so many other things, including her main interest — history. "When it comes to life, I tend to lean more toward history, and this particular trip showed me how I can incorporate science into every area of everyday life," she said. The newly acquired knowledge will help her better motivate kids to learn, she said. "We really need to get them hooked on learning, because they don't see how what they do affects everyone else," she said. Challenger and Rollins also gained exposure to the life of watermen, learning how that particular existence is closely tied to the health of the watershed and government regulations.

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS

As biosolids applications begin, practice still has champions and detractors Driving down a country road in Albemarle County, one would hardly think twice seeing the small sign posted along a driveway. About the size of a "For Sale" sign and forest green, it often escapes the notice of passing motorists. This sign on Earlysville Road gives public notice that a farm is going to be applying biosolids as fertilizer. The sludge comes from wastewater facilities after it has been treated to reduce pollutants and pathogens. Biosolids can be disposed of through incineration or buried in a landfill, but they can also be used as fertilizer on farms. Since 2007, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has been in charge of issuing companies permits, and ensures that the companies applying the biosolids follow strict regulations, such as not allowing livestock to graze on biosolid-affected land for 30 days. Although the permits cost the companies around \$5,000, the fertilizer is free for the farmer.

ALTAVISTA JOURNAL

Board to hold citizens' forum on uranium mining The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors will hold a citizens' forum to listen to suggestions on uranium mining and milling Monday, July 9. The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 7 p.m. in the General District Courtroom in Chatham. "I'm hoping we can gather ideas and suggestions to help with our decision making to create ordinances to protect the health and safety of citizens," said Staunton River District Supervisor Marshall Ecker. Ecker organized the forum and invited fellow board members. All seven supervisors have agreed to attend, he said. The Coles Hill uranium deposit, believed to be the largest in the United States, is just six miles northeast of Chatham. Virginia Uranium Inc. announced plans to mine the deposit, worth an estimated \$7 billion, in 2007, and is working to convince lawmakers to end the state's 30-year moratorium on uranium mining. "We really haven't done anything," said Ecker, who described the forum as a "brainstorming" session. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in 2009 to adopt a resolution recommending that a state study determine uranium mining will cause "no damage or harm" to the county. The resolution was sent to the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission's Uranium Mining Subcommittee, which is studying the dangers and benefits of uranium mining.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

EPA Touts Carbon Capture, Storage, but CBO Remains a Skeptic Congress is getting different messages on the viability of carbon capture and storage as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Gina McCarthy, EPA assistant administrator for air and radiation, tells a House hearing that the agency's proposed carbon dioxide regulation for new fossil fuel-fired power plants is a "fuel-neutral" standard that coal power plants can achieve by using carbon capture and storage technology.

Court Severs New Power Plant Issues in Challenge to EPA Mercury Rule A federal appeals court severs issues specific to new coal-fired power plants from the other issues being raised in consolidated cases challenging EPA's mercury and air toxics standards. The utilities challenging the standards say they are unable to begin construction on new coal plants because the mercury limits are unattainable, but they must begin construction by April 2013 to avoid being subject to an unattainable greenhouse gas standard that EPA has proposed separately. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit grants motions to sever by several energy companies, and the issues will be litigated under an expedited briefing schedule

EPA to Complete Review of Endocrine Tests, Issue Tier 2 Orders EPA plans to complete its review of the initial round of testing under the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program and issue Tier 2 test orders in fiscal year 2014, according to an agency management plan for the program. The EDSP Comprehensive Management Plan outlines the agency's intentions over the next five years. The agency will immediately focus on a "scientifically rigorous technical review" of the Tier 1 tests, a battery of 11 tests to identify chemicals with the potential to interact with the endocrine system, and the development of weight-of-evidence determinations for the initial list of 53 active and inert pesticide ingredients that underwent testing

GAO Says More Research Needed on Effects of Oil Dispersants A Government Accountability Office study concludes that more research is needed on the effectiveness and breakdown of chemical dispersants applied on water and under water to break up spilled oil. In the report, *Oil Dispersants: Additional Research Needed, Particularly on Subsurface and Arctic Applications*, GAO says all the experts it spoke with agreed that "little is known about the application and effects of dispersants applied subsurface," adding that environmental conditions such as higher pressures may influence their effectiveness. The report comes two years after the Gulf oil spill,

which drew attention to the use of dispersants.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gas under graveyards raises moral, money questions COLUMBUS, Ohio — Loved ones aren't the only thing buried in the 122-year-old Lowellville Cemetery in eastern Ohio. Deep underground, locked in ancient shale formations, are lucrative quantities of natural gas. Whether to drill for that gas is causing soul-searching as cemeteries - including veterans' final resting places in Colorado and Mississippi - join parks, playgrounds, churches and residential backyards among the ranks of places targeted in the nation's shale drilling boom. Opponents say cemeteries are hallowed ground that shouldn't be sullied by drilling activity they worry will be noisy, smelly and unsightly. Defenders say the drilling is so deep that it doesn't disturb the cemetery and can generate revenue to enhance the roads and grounds. "Most people don't like it," said 70-year-old Marilee Pilkington, who lives down the road from the cemetery in rural Poland Township and whose father, brother, nephew and niece are all buried there. "I think it's a dumb idea because I wouldn't want anyone up there disturbing

Arctic drilling creeps forward now, and in 5 years ANCHORAGE, Alaska - A spokesman for Shell Oil says the company expects to receive final federal authorization to begin drilling exploratory wells off Alaska's northern coasts by late July. Curtis Smith says successful testing of a "capping stack" off Bellingham, Wash., on Monday was one of the final hurdles. Capping stacks are designed to kill an undersea oil well blowout by providing a seal on a malfunctioning blowout preventer. One will be carried on a Shell support vessel accompanying drill ships. Environmental groups contend the government erred by approving Shell's Arctic spill response plans. Attorney Holly Harris of Earthjustice says that Shell has overstated its ability to respond to a worst-case scenario spill in open water. And she says no oil company has demonstrated it can clean up a spill in ice.

Quick facts on storms, summer heat in eastern US Violent storms have left more than 3 million people without electricity to face a second day of sweltering in 100-degree heat. Much of the eastern U.S. was experiencing a sweltering heat wave, with temperatures across the southeast and mid-Atlantic ex...

VINELAND DAILY JOURNAL (NJ)

Devastation after storm hits southern NJ VINELAND, N.J. — A violent, swift-moving storm with hurricane-force winds needed less than an hour Saturday morning to turn Cumberland and Atlantic counties into disaster zones as it toppled trees, snapped power lines and destroyed homes. But it'll take nearly a week to just get the lights and air conditioners back on in some parts of the region after the extraordinary, unexpected storm that officials say left more damage in its wake than last year's Hurricane Irene. "I've lost everything," said Ken Nash, a resident of the Vineland Hills mobile home park on North East Boulevard, where the storm destroyed about 10 homes. Nash and his wife, Diane, were inside their home early Saturday morning when it was almost flattened completely by two trees that fell just minutes apart from each other.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

Eastern US battles heat wave amid power outages WASHINGTON, July 1 (Reuters) - Blistering heat blanketed much of the eastern United States for the third straight day on Sunday, after violent storms that took at least 15 lives and knocked out power to more than 3 million customers. Emergencies were declared in Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C., on Saturday because of damage from storms that unleashed hurricane-force winds across and a 500-mile (800-km) stretch of the mid-Atlantic region. The storms' rampage came as sweltering temperatures topped 100 Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) in several southern cities, including Atlanta, where the mercury hit an all-time record of 106 degrees (41 Celsius) on Saturday and reached 105 on Sunday. Over two dozen cities across 10 states set or tied all-time record high temperatures on Friday and Saturday, including Columbia, South Carolina; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Raleigh, North Carolina. The heat wave continued on Sunday for millions of people from the Plains to the mid-Atlantic. One of the hardest hit cities was Charlotte, North Carolina, where the mercury reached 104 degrees (40 C) on Sunday. From St. Louis, Missouri, to Washington, D.C., temperatures were forecast to hit more all-time records. Thunderstorms and high winds battered eastern North Carolina on

Sunday afternoon, leading to three more deaths on top of at least 12 caused by deadly storms in several states on Saturday. In Pitt County near Greenville, a man was killed when his shed fell on him as he tried to put his golf cart inside, said David Glenn of the National Weather Service.

NEW YORK TIMES

Blog: University Will Not Investigate Fracking Institute The State University of New York at Buffalo has rebuffed calls for an investigation of the work of a new institute it founded that is devoted to the study of shale gas drilling, saying it is defending the freedom of faculty members to conduct research. The university's Shale Resources and Society Institute came under fire last month after it released a study asserting that state regulation in Pennsylvania had made hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in the Marcellus Shale considerably safer. A government watchdog group quickly raised questions about the study's data and the authors' ties to the oil and gas industry, and a group of professors and students called for a broader inquiry into the genesis of the institute, which issued the report only weeks after its creation in April. In a statement posted on Thursday on the university's Web site, officials said the work of the institute was consistent with the mission of a public research university and that its researchers were entitled to delve into controversial subjects like fracking without interference. "The university's role is to create a forum for objective research and informed debate – not to dictate the position taken by its faculty members," the statement said.

After Storms in Mid-Atlantic, Stifling Heat and Power Loss (Saturday) WASHINGTON — With temperatures expected to soar on Sunday, about two million customers remained without electricity after a deadly string of thunderstorms whipped through the mid-Atlantic region, downing trees and power lines, and killing at least 12 people, including a 90-year-old woman who died when a tree fell on her house as she slept.